

# The Sydney Morning Herald.

No. 5336.—VOL. XXXV.

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1854.

PRICE THREEPENCE.

## SHIP ADVERTISEMENTS.

**A USTRALASIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.**—The Company's steamer *EGYPT* is open to Freight, Passage, and Charter. The *EGYPT* will be ready to sail for the *INDIA* on the 1st of August. Letters, &c., can be ascertained at the Company's Offices, from Messrs. Lane and Co.; Mitchell and Co.; Michael Metcalf, Custom House; or from the Agent, FREDERICK TERRY, Assistant Manager.

**TOWAGE, TOWAGE.**—The S. and M. S. P. Company's fast and powerful steamer *VICTORIA* is now open to engagement for the purpose of moving vessels, towing from port to port, &c., and will be ready to sail on the 1st of August, next, into the harbour, &c., to be engaged for the day, except on Sunday, 11th inst. Commanders of vessels requiring their services are requested to hold the rendezvous at the *INDIA* on the 1st of August.

JOHN BRIDGES, Secretary, and M. S. P. Co.'s Office, Campbell's Wharf, June 10.

**STRAM TO WATSON'S BAY.**—Twice a day.

The S. and M. P. Company's steamer "Victoria" will leave Campbell's Wharf for Watson's Bay daily at 10 o'clock, and half-past 12, except on Sunday, 11th inst. Commanders of vessels requiring their services are requested to hold the rendezvous at the *INDIA* on the 1st of August.

JOHN BRIDGES, Secretary, and M. S. P. Co.'s Office, Campbell's Wharf, June 10.

**FOR MELBOURNE.**—The steamer *WILLIAM MUSKIN*, this Evening, at 10 p.m. Phoenix Wharf, July 15.

**STEAM TO THE HUNTER.**—The *COLLAROY*, this Evening, at 10 p.m. FREDERICK TERRY, Assistant Manager, A. S. N. Co.'s Wharf, July 15.

**STEAM TO MORETON BAY.**—The A. S. N. Co.'s new steamship *CITY OF MELBOURNE*, John Head, commander, will be ready to sail on Saturday, 18th inst., at 3 p.m.

FREDERICK TERRY, Assistant Manager, A. S. N. Co.'s Wharf, July 12, 1854.

**STEAM TO MELBOURNE.**—Fares: Saloon, £1 10s. Second £1 5s. Freight, £1 per ton. Passengers will be accommodated in the *CITY OF MELBOURNE*, the S. and M. S. P. Company's powerful and fast steamship, 800 tons, 450 horse power, W. WATTS, Commander, will be ready to sail on Friday next, 17th instant, at 3 p.m. Horses should be removed previous to embarkation.

FREDERICK TERRY, Assistant Manager, A. S. N. Co.'s Wharf, July 14, 1854.

**STEAM TO MELBOURNE.**—Fares: Saloon, £1 10s. Second £1 5s. Freight, £1 per ton. Passengers will be accommodated in the *CITY OF MELBOURNE*, the S. and M. S. P. Company's powerful and fast steamship, 800 tons, 450 horse power, W. WATTS, Commander, will be ready to sail on Friday next, 17th instant, at 3 p.m. Horses should be removed previous to embarkation.

FREDERICK TERRY, Assistant Manager, A. S. N. Co.'s Wharf, July 14, 1854.

**FOR WARRNAMBOOL AND PORT FAIRY.**—The clipper schooner *JESSE*, 130 tons, J. LINDSAY, master, having the greater portion of her cargo ready for ship, will be ready to sail on Friday next, 17th instant.

Applies to MORRIS and CO., Albion Wharf (foot of Market-street).

**FOR ADELAIDE direct.**—Having twenty tons only damaged, the clipper *BRITANNIA*, 200 tons, ELLIOTT, will be ready to sail on Friday next, 17th instant.

For freight or passage apply at the Company's Offices, Campbell's Wharf.

JOHN BRIDGES, Secretary, and M. S. P. Co.'s Office, Campbell's Wharf, July 15.

**FOR WELLINGTON.**—The JAMES GIBSON, R. TAYLOR, commander, will be ready to sail on Friday next, 17th instant, at 12 noon, having the greater portion of her cargo ready for ship, to be removed previous to embarkation.

Applies to MORRIS and CO., Albion Wharf, foot of Market-street.

**FOR AUCKLAND direct.**—The A. S. N. Co.'s new steamship *YAHRA YAHRA*, G. GILMOUR, commander, will be despatched as above on Tuesday the 16th July, ready to sail at 12 noon.

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# The Sydney Morning Herald.

No. 5336.—VOL. XXXV.

## SECOND EDITION. EUROPEAN NEWS BY THE OVERLAND MAIL STEAMER NORMA.

THE FIRST BLOW STRUCK.

TWELVE RUSSIAN SHIPS OF WAR  
DESTROYED.

ODESSA BOMBARDED.

As the Yarra Yarra was leaving Hobson's Bay on Wednesday, the P. and O. Company's steamer Norma was coming up, and Captain Gilmore procured from Mr. Randale, formerly of the Chusan, a *Straits Times Express*, containing news to the latest possible dates.

The following are the most important items.

The P. and O. Co.'s steamer Doura, which vessel left Hongkong May 22nd for Ceylon with mails for Europe, encountered a severe typhoon on the 24th and 25th, during which time she lost her funnel and received other injuries. It was found necessary to return to Hongkong for repairs; on the way thither, on the night of the 26th, the Doura struck upon the Parcels, where she remains a total wreck. Passengers and crew saved by the steamers Malta and Pekin.

It has been ascertained that the Russian squadron under Admiral Pontatine is in the Chinese waters; Admiral Sir James Stirling has proceeded to capture or destroy them.

Sir John Bowring had sailed from Hongkong for Japan, for the purpose of negotiating a treaty of commerce.

London, May 9th, 1854.

The first shots have been exchanged with the enemy in the Black Sea.

A portion of the allied fleets bombarded Odessa on the 22nd April, and in a few hours had reduced all the military works to ruins, blowing up the powder magazine, and sinking and burning 12 ships of war in that harbour. The town was spared.

The fleet has since sailed towards Sebastopol.

The French fleet has reached the Baltic. The Russian fleet was coming out of Helsingfors, and Sir Charles Napier has made signal to sail in pursuit of them.

Lord Raglan had arrived in Constantinople. The best feeling exists between the British, French, and Turkish troops.

By the supplementary Budget, announced last night, the double Income Tax is to be continued during the war, and spirits, beer and sugar are to be further taxed.

Malta, May 15th, 1854.

The late arrival of the P. and O. Co.'s new ship Simla, consequent on her having unfortunately broken two of the fans of her screw in a heavy gale of wind during her passage across the Bay of Biscay, enables us to give you the following copy of a letter from Gallipoli, dated 9th instant.

The Vulcan, en route to Malta, has just called in here, and on the chance of this reaching you sooner than the regular post I send you a line to inform you of the safe arrival here of the Duke of Cambridge and suite. We arrived about half an hour ago, and the Duke has gone ashore to have an interview with General England, in command of the English troops at this place. The roadstead of Gallipoli is full of transports (about 120 sail) nearly all of which are French, and there are beside five French line-of-battle ships, as well as Turkish frigates and corvettes. All the vessels of war have saluted the Prince with tremendous salvos of artillery. The entrance to the Dardanelles is almost blocked up with transports waiting for a fair wind. They were principally laden with horses and stores, and by far the greater number were French. Indeed, the French seem in advance of us everywhere. There are about 28,000 French troops encamped round about Gallipoli now and about 5000 English; the most of the English forces have gone on to Constantinople and are located in Scutari; the French officers say they are about to move on to Adrianople, which it is said will be the head quarters of both armies.

The greater part of the combined fleet are now off Sebastopol blockading the Russian Fleet, while a squadron of heavily armed steamers are engaged destroying the forts on the Caucasian coast. If their accounts are to be relied on (and I have them from the highest authority) the war is opening with something like vigour at last. All sorts of rumours are afloat regarding the place of the campaign, but in reality note was taken by the Commander-in-Chief is aware of it with certainty, as any plans must of course be more or less dependent on the movements of the enemy: it is not however improbable that the English will shortly be moved up to Varna, always supposing that their artillery arrives in time to admit of their taking the field at all this campaign. An event which is doubted by many experienced officers. I will send you further details of the Prince's voyage when we arrive at Constantinople, for which place we are on the point of starting. The new Secretary to the English Embassy, Mr. Brodie, who has been waiting here to receive his Highness, has just embarked, and will go with us to Constantinople.

Smyrna, 10th May. Marshal St. Arnaud arrived on Saturday from Marseilles on board the Bertholet, and was received with a salute of 19 guns from the Gomer, and other men-of-war in the harbour. After inspecting the barracks he resumed on board the Bertholet, and left for Constantinople at 10 p.m.

MALTA, 18TH MAY. P. and O. Co.'s new steamer Simla having broken down on her passage across the Bay of Biscay, and being unable to proceed on her voyage, all her mails, specie and passengers have been transferred to the Valletta, which vessel will convey them to Alexandria; she takes her departure at 6 a.m.

to-morrow. Owing to the very heavy mail, and quantity of specie, the cargo will have to remain behind, as all the available space of the Valletta is taken up.

The Simla, in addition to her Indian cargo, brought out a large number of horses, troops, stores, &c., which were transferred to the Medway and that vessel leaves for coast this evening, with 360 horses on board. Colonel Beaton proceeds by her.

P. & O. Co.'s steamer Himalaya is looked for daily, with horses for Constantinople.

[From our own Correspondent.]

Trieste, May 10, 1854.

DALMATIA, 4th MAY.—The news received per steamer are, that the Montenegrines have appointed 5th of May, the day of St. George, for the opening of hostilities against the Turks. Their forces amount already to 8000 men under arms. According to a decree, every combatant shall receive the pay of one shilling per day. The Turkish inhabitants of the Herzegovian are greatly alarmed by those preparations, and take refuge, with their families and goods, in the fortress of Trebigne.

VIENNA, MAY 10th.—(Private Despatch.)—It is said that the Austrian army of 20,000 men will occupy Dalmatia and Montenegro.

ATHENS, 9TH MAY.—The news arrived yesterday by the weekly steamer, represent the cause of insurrection as in the most unfortunate plight. On the 21st of last month the insurgents were at Demre, beaten and dispersed by Abd Pacha; on the 25th, Omar Pacha took Pessa, the stronghold of the insurrection, and defeated 3000 men under the command of Karakakay and Zavelas. The Secretary of the latter was killed in the action, and about him are said to have been found documents, of a nature to expose the Court of Greece. Everywhere in Epirus and Thessalia, the insurgents seem to have been dispersed. At Rhion, 100 convicts had revolted and effected their escape, after a sharp affray with the garrison. At Andes an English vessel had been found without her crew.

VIENNA, 8TH MAY.—The difference between General Baragay and the Porte has been adjusted.

VIENNA, 9th May.—An exchange of despatches between Russia and Prussia seems still to be carried on with a view to the re-establishment of peace. The Russian Cabinet, it is said, show a more conciliatory spirit than before.

TRIESTE, 10th May.—From Constantinople we have been acquainted by the Overland post, with the serious conflict which had taken place between the French Ambassador, General Baragay and the Sublime Porte, on grounds not yet fully ascertained, but supposed to relate to the protection which the French Ambassador desired to accord to the Greeks of the Catholic profession, and which the Divan endeavoured to reject. General Baragay had given an ultimatum on the 27th of last month with a peremptory term till 4 o'clock p.m. of the same day. A French steamer was kept in readiness to receive on board the whole of the members of the Ambassade.

The sensations created by this affair at Constantinople was great; according to the above despatch from Vienna, it seems, however to have been satisfied.

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The main body of the French Baltic fleet sailed from the Downs last week, and were off the Texel on the 2nd. They are all sailing ships, mostly of large size.

Parliament was adjourned on the 11th instant, until the 27th for the Eastern recess.

The new Reform Bill is withdrawn until the termination of the war.

The 27th instant is appointed as a day of national fast and humiliation on account of the war.

Reinforcements continue to be despatched.

The French are pushing on a force of infantry and artillery to the Baltic to act on land.

The fleet under Sir Charles have already taken fifteen prizes.

The Russians have crossed the Danube in strong force and then secured possession of the mouth of that river. The Turks have fallen back upon Varna.

The Black Sea Fleet are cruising near Varna and a portion are off Odessa, which it is believed they will bombard.

The Circassians are rising against the Russians in Asia, and driving them out of the country.

The marriage of the Emperor of Austria takes place this day.

News is to hand of an outbreak at Barcelone attended with much loss of life.

Sir Charles Napier has now 40 ships of war under his command, and several French ships.

A fleet of 27 French men-of-war and corvettes are now in the channel on their way to join Sir Charles.

The whole of the first expeditionary force has by this time landed at Galipoli in the Dardanelles.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Malta, 29th April, 1854.

By Sultan at 11 p.m., yesterday, we have dates from Constantinople up to 21st instant.

Up to the hour of her departure no news had been received from the expedition to Odessa, of the fall of that place, but such intelligence was momentarily expected. A Greek schooner laden with 200 barrels of gunpowder, 30 cases of Muskets, and a quantity of gun cartridges, intended for the Greek insurgents, has been captured by the French steamer Heron, and the whole cargo thrown overboard. On the 12th, several French regiments left Gallipoli for Rodosto and Selivrya. The number of Anglo-French troops then at Gallipoli was 34,850; they were well provided for, enjoying excellent health, and longing to meet the Russians, the greatest order and good feeling existed in the camp. On the 26th March a slight engagement took place at Kafalat, in which the Russians were defeated, among those who particularly distinguished themselves appear the names of Colonel Skandar Bay, Messrs. Mercier and Du Puy, French officers, each commanding a regiment of horse, Major O'Reilly (British), and Lieutenant Gardino (Piedmontese). It was reported that all the Greek ports were shortly to be blockaded by the Anglo-French fleet.—Patras was already blockaded.

That was an important move, as it gave them command of both sides of the Danube, and the river so far from our ships. They had fortified the mouths and filled up the water channels with rock, piles, &c., leaving but one opening in the centre through which vessels could pass.

Our intelligence from this port is by no means regular or reliable, but we hear that, in attempting to push on towards the south in the direction of Varna and Schmula, the Russians have met with a severe hand from Omar Pasha.

After many delays and halting by the way, the principal commanders are fairly on their way to the scene of action. Lord Cardigan alone remains to see the rest of the Cavalry off, five hundred of whom are going this week in the gigantic steamship Himalaya. The French General, Marshall St. Arnaud, has left Mar-

sele. As far as we are unable, to surmise what may be the course of operations along the Black Sea. The army and the fleet will not do act in concert, but when or where must entirely depend upon the movements of the enemy. To the date of our last advice, contrary to general expectation, no further movement of any importance had been made by the Russians.

General Luders, the second in command, had hastily retired from before Kafalat and fallen back upon Bukarest, where it seems a large force is assembling for a speedy and vigorous attack on Silichia, the most important Turkish fortress on the right bank of the Danube. I had informed you previously of the Russians having crossed the Danube near its mouth, in great force, and taken possession of the country to the south of it, called the Dobrudza.

The best news appears to be kept up, not only between the allied forces, but between them and the Turkish population, who are filled with contempt at the martial air and admirable discipline of our troops, and do not fail to express their admiration of everything European.

Silichia has been bombarded, without mercy by the Russians, several times from the Pors of the Danube; they seem not disposed to proceed to regular siege, until General Luders will have occupied and entrenched camp with his corps of 60,000 men, and Prince Gortschakoff passed the Danube with the bulk of the Russian army. Omar Pasha having at his disposal 100,000 men, is a respectable adversary, and could easily relieve Silichia if the Russians omitted to cover their offensive operations by two strong corps on the road towards Baradachik and Mardz.

The Turkish Commander-in-Chief is confident that Silichia will hold out, at all events till the arrival of the auxiliary troops.—Little Wallachia is completely evacuated by the Russians, and the Turks advancing towards Craiova, have distributed tranquillizing proclamations to the Wallachians. Bosquet, with 10,000 French troops is at Varna. The Russian troops in the Dobrudza are pushed on *en echelon* at Baghadag, Tatscha Isaksha Mutchin, Dagan, Hirsova and Tschewinskotra. These positions are not fortified, and it is singular that the Convoys from Wallachia and Moldavia are not directed to the Danube, but to the Black Sea. The Pacha of Moldavia is blockading the Dardanelles.

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The Turkish Commander-in-Chief is confident that Silichia will hold out, at all events till the arrival of the auxiliary troops.—Little Wallachia is completely evacuated by the Russians, and the Turks advancing towards Craiova, have distributed tranquillizing proclamations to the Wallachians. Bosquet, with 10,000 French troops is at Varna. The Russian troops in the Dobrudza are pushed on *en echelon* at Baghadag, Tatscha Isaksha Mutchin, Dagan, Hirsova and Tschewinskotra. These positions are not fortified, and it is singular that the Convoys from Wallachia and Moldavia are not directed to the Danube, but to the Black Sea. The Pacha of Moldavia is blockading the Dardanelles.

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states—to rouse a dangerous feeling against any Government that should acquiesce in self help by England to the extent suggested is obvious. A quarrel with America is at all times to be scrupulously avoided, as far as is consistent with national honour, and particularly at a moment when we have Russia actually in hand, with Prussia and Austria hanging in the wind. We know the danger to which we are exposed, and it is our part to guard against it as best we may. There can be no doubt as to the facilities which the peculiar position of California affords to Russia of letting loose a horde of buccaneers upon our merchantmen; and quite as little of the readiness of that unscrupulous Government to grasp at any means of annoying and embarrassing us. All such adventurers are fair game on the high seas; and if the French and English cruisers in the North Pacific are reasonably on the alert a few striking examples at the outset will suffice to cool the courage of the rest.

## SEIZURE OF THE EFFECTS OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR AT ST. PETERSBURG.

(From The Times.)

His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias has seized and appropriated Sir G. H. Seymour's property at St. Petersburg. As the persons and property of ambassadors and others concerned in the political intercourse of nations have ever been held sacred, such an act as that reported must raise the gravest suspicions as to the sanity of our antagonist. Everybody will remember the extravagances of the Emperor Paul on a like occasion. That eccentric personage, after venting his spite against the English, nationally and individually, in all sorts of ways, declared war, and at once, without the usual warning, seized all the merchant ships then in the Neva, and, when two of them had managed to effect their escape, revenged himself upon them by burning all the rest. Whether that will be the fate of Sir G. H. Seymour's houses and goods, or on what pretence they have been seized, contrary to the law and practice of the whole civilised world, we have yet to learn. There is something so inconceivably petty in such an act and so contrary to the customs, not only of "gentlemen," but even emperors, and all civilised beings, that one naturally tries to escape from believing it, by supposing some process of Russian law with which Englishmen may be exquisitely unacquainted. It looks, however, very like an act of revenge for the publicity given to the Secret Correspondence and confidential communications of the Emperor. But such a revenge must recoil on its author, and the too eager expectant of a "sick man's" property has not minded his case by pouncing on the goods and chattels of a departing ambassador.

The Russian Emperor, it is understood, will hold his Easter festival at Moscow. It is alleged that the festive occasion for the detention of the effects of Sir Hamilton Seymour was that the Czar might appear in coat and breeches, the spoil of an enemy, at the Easter offering, as Romulus offered sacrifice clad in the *spolia opima* he had stripped from the foe his own arm had struck down. There is a graceful classicity in the idea; but, unfortunately, it is whispered, the colossal proportions of the Emperor have rendered it impossible for him to don the stolen vestments. It is reported that, to make up for this they will be displayed on the persons of the Imperial Ministers. The collective Cabinet of St. Petersburg will be supplied, for the occasion, from the trunks and portmanteaus of our English Minister. Some individuals are apprehensive of discontent among the Russian tailors, in consequence of this exhibition of foreign workmanship. *Post. News.*

Mitchell, the Irish rebel, has issued a proclamation, calling upon all his countrymen in the United States to organise themselves into a military body to levy war upon England, and to commence operations by the invasion of Canada. For this great undertaking the rebel exchequer appears to be but ill provided. The *New York Herald* states the whole amount of cash in the treasury to be only \$30,000, about £6,000—rather an insufficient sum for such a bold design. But the fact is as we learn from the American papers, this man, who is by nature mischievous and unprincipled, has now become desperate, because he cannot succeed in getting an estate in Alabama, well stocked with slaves, which is the great object of his ambition. We cannot feel any great sorrow for his disappointment, while we must congratulate the unfortunate negroes on their escape from one who, we are induced to think, would prove a very cruel taskmaster. "It is well known," says the writer in the *New York paper*, "that the Irish military companies in New York now number 10,000 men; that they have, for some time past, paid more attention than usual to their discipline, and improved their efficiency; also, that calls for the organisation of new Irish companies are daily appearing in the papers." It is very little consequence what becomes of the man himself, but we hope he will not meet with any success among his countrymen, who are now in a country where they have every certainty, by hard industry, of raising themselves to a state of comfort and prosperity as American citizens. Besides, Canada is not what it formerly was—a place where discontent might take root and thrive. The Canadians now appreciate the fine country which they have chosen as their future land of promise; they see everywhere around them their land teeming with abundance, ready to bestow an ample reward for their steady industry. Hence such an invasion of its soil as Mitchell, in his insanity or desperation speaks of, instead of meeting with sympathy or support, would be resisted as obstinately and as patriotically, as if he were to attempt the invasion of Kent or Surrey.

## THE WAR AND OUR COMMERCIAL PROSPECTS.

(From The Merchant.)

The law of compensation prevails throughout Nature, and is equally conspicuous in mundane affairs. Is the year of our Lord 1854 shall hereafter be famous in the annals of history for the recurrence of a bitter Continental War, after an enduring Peace, of forty years, it will, at the same time, be distinguished for various benefits conferred upon Commerce, Civilisation, and the advancement of Nations in the scale of social progress. The heavy thunder-cloud of War-charged, as it is, with its lightning flashes and its destructive effects—may, as is found to prevail in the visible atmosphere around about us, be attended with ulterior beneficial effects; and, dark and lowering as it looks at present, it is not without its silver lining. The observant eye, even now, detects bright gleams of sunshine and prosperity identified with the current year, which cannot fail to gladden the heart of the merchant and manufacturer, as he casts a hopeful glance over the future, and scans the vista of coming events. No short period has, probably, before been characterised by so many interesting announcements, pregnant with results of deep importance to our swelling commerce, as the first three months of 1854. New marts are

opening up day by day for British trade and manufacturers. Our colonial progress is steady and prosperous; and all classes at home and abroad share the common weal.

A strong moving power, indeed the main lever—which gives the impulse movement to the rapid extension of trade among the nations of the earth, is steam; that power which annihilates time and space, and combats all difficulties. Steam has penetrated into the Arctic circle; steamers float on the Indus, the Ganges, and the Irrawaddy; steamers have long covered the vast rivers and broad lakes of North America, and the inland seas and rivers of Europe—have coasted and surveyed all ocean shores, and circumnavigated the globe. By steam America has been brought within a month's post, and Australia within two months. The steamer is now on the interior waters of Australia, opening up, to profitable commerce regions heretofore almost shut out from communication with the sea, and thus removing the idea that there drought prevailed, and that no passage for produce could be obtained. Rivers which the colonists never thought navigable have, by British enterprise, become changed in their aspect, and the Murray and its tributaries now bear down to the sea rich cargoes of wool, tallow, and colonial produce, to the surprise and delight of the squatter, and the manifest enhancement in value of his lands and his flock.

Another vast continent, South America, is opening up its interior treasures to commerce—furnishing new markets for our manufacturers, new fields for agricultural and industrial enterprise, and countless numberless new products from regions unknown and unexplored, but abounding in all that can minister to the wants of man. The steamer now floats proudly to effect their escape, revenged himself upon them by burning all the rest. Whether that will be the fate of Sir G. H. Seymour's houses and goods, or on what pretence they have been seized, contrary to the law and practice of the whole civilised world, we have yet to learn. There is something so inconceivably petty in such an act and so contrary to the customs, not only of "gentlemen," but even emperors, and all civilised beings, that one naturally tries to escape from believing it, by supposing some process of Russian law with which Englishmen may be exquisitely unacquainted. It looks, however, very like an act of revenge for the publicity given to the Secret Correspondence and confidential communications of the Emperor. But such a revenge must recoil on its author, and the too eager expectant of a "sick man's" property has not minded his case by pouncing on the goods and chattels of a departing ambassador.

The Benheim, Captain the Hon. F. T. Palmer, immediately answered, "Ready and willing;" the Neptune, Captain Smith, "Ready;" and every ship manned her rigging and gave three such cheers as are seldom heard in those waters. Ourselves and all the ship's company were then called upon deck, and Commodore Seymour read the signal to us; and the men were beginning to follow the example of the other ships, when the old admiral came forward, and leaning over the poop railing, said—

"Now, my lads! You have just heard what the Commodore has said to you, and all I have to say is, you must be cool and collected—don't throw your shot away. A shot fired in the air or the water is of no use. Make every one of them tell; we have quite a different system now to what we had in the last war. I have no doubt some of you have been in action before, but it will be different to what you have been accustomed to; but Admiral Chads showed you the other day that a shell bursting between decks is not so dangerous as you imagine, and if one comes on your deck, you must lie down, and it won't hurt you more than the common splinters of an ordinary action. Should we meet the Russian fleet at sea, as I dare say we shall, you well know how to dispose of them. We will now man the rigging, and give three cheers for the Queen, God bless her!"

The men rushed to the rigging and gave three times for the Queen and one cheer more, and three for the commander-in-chief, this was followed by the rest of the fleet, and peal after peal came floating over the waters until the most distant sounded like the echo of the other. Hands were piped down, men under punishment were forgiven, and an extra glass of grog given each man at supper time. The Flying Squadron of paddle wheels, under Admiral Plumbe, left us immediately after for the edge of the ice. They are gone to watch the movements of the enemy, and to look after some ships laden with sulphur and lead, which are in a "fix" in the ice. They will be prize worth taking if they turn up.

On the 11th instant, a seizure was effected at Glasgow for power, *disputed not given*, on battle ships or heavy frigates, manufactured under contract for the Russian Government. It appears that, as in the case of other recent seizures, some attempts have been made to set up a sub-contract for transferring these engines to a Hamburg house, Merck and Co., in order to evade their confiscation as Russian property.

The Cortes of Portugal are to remain open till the 16th of May. The Duke of Saldanha

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From Parma we learn that the Duchess Regent has resolved to inaugurate the reign of her son by acts of moderation. On learning the assassination of the Duke, Radetzki offered to send troops into the Duchy, but this was not accepted by the Regent. It is also reported that the forced loan of seven millions decreed by the Duke has been cancelled. The former ministers are exiled, and succeeded by men of honest purpose, possessing the confidence of the people.

A significant fact has just occurred in New Hampshire, United States, which President Pierce belongs to. This state has always been democratic, and is perhaps the only one that has never voted for the Whigs. Just now, however, there is a strong opposition to the Democratic Government; the two new senators for the State are hostile to the policy of General Pierce, and are the first Whigs which New Hampshire has sent to Congress. In the Chamber of Representatives, a Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, having moved that the President be requested to open negotiations with England, to ascertain upon what conditions she was willing to give up Canada to the United States, the modest request was carried by a large majority. The New York Chamber of Commerce has done itself honour by adopting a series of resolutions strongly condemning the system of carrying on maritime warfare by means of privateers.

THE CONSTITUTION FOR AUSTRALIA.

(From The Times, April 21.)

As we are just about to experience the first results of a great experiment in the colonial legislation, it may be worth while to recapitulate so much of the history of the movement that has been set on foot, to help our readers understand the peculiar circumstances under which the question of a new constitution for that colony comes before the attention of Parliament. In 1842 a Legislature was established for New South Wales, two-thirds of which were to be elected by the colonists, and one-third nominated by the Crown. In 1850 the same constitution was continued, with an increase in the number of the members of the Council, and a power to re-adjust the electoral divisions of the colony, and to propose a new form of constitution—in other words, to exercise the functions of a Constituent Assembly. Our readers will remember that we doubted the propriety of giving these colonial Legislatures such extensive constituent powers. We always thought, and we still think, that those whom narrow and jealous policy would not trust with the administration of their own government, and the management of their own lands, who were studiously kept in a state of tutelage, and taught to consider themselves so far removed from the continental majority, would possess neither the judgment, the knowledge, nor the integrity to work out so complicated a problem. Besides, these Assemblies, one-third of which was nominated by the Crown from persons more remarkable for their dignity than their talent or position, were sure to represent very imperfectly the feelings of the community. Still, little as we expected, the working of the act,

we could hardly have supposed that it would have led to a course of action so embarrassing and so unsatisfactory as New South Wales has exhibited. When the act of 1850 arrived in that colony there were in the Legislative Council three parties—the Council party, consisting mainly of the educated members of the popular or democratic party; and the squatters, who, as tenants of the Crown, are possessed of the greatest part of the pastoral lands of the colony. The first step the Council had to take was to redive the colony into electoral districts, for this purpose the squatters and nominees seem to have combined against the popular party. The result of the formation of electoral districts on principles of the most strict moderation.

The claims of property and wealth were neglected in favour of mere geographical extent, and when the new council met, the effect was perceptible in a great increase of the power of the squatter party, and proportionate diminution in the numbers of the popular section. The allies lost no time in improving their advantage, and if they do not ultimately succeed in obtaining the fruits of their coalition, their failure will be the signal for the popular party to renew their efforts.

We (Plymouth Mail) have been favoured with the following interesting extracts from a private letter of an officer of the Duke of Wellington to his friends:—

April 4. At noon to-day the Old Duke looked as if she was dressed for a holiday: she was covered with flags, forming a general signal to the fleet, which had anything but a holiday signification—it was the commander-in-chief's declaration of war, and ran, word for word, as follows:—

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lutions. He was well aware that very generally on the continent of Europe, and particularly in France, the business of this kind was carried on in institutions established by the Government, and these had been found to work most successfully. It was from this circumstance that he had been led to place the third resolution on the paper, namely, (3.) That the establishments in Paris and other parts of the Continent known as the Monts de Pitié, under Government control, have been productive of the greatest benefit to the lower orders, by limiting the rate of interest to a sum equivalent to 10 per cent. per annum, by advancing free-of-charge various articles of plate and jewellery, and two-thirds of the value of other chattels, and by allowing the pawnner twelve months to redeem his goods. These Monts de Pitié were no institutions of modern establishment. They had been established in Italy for four or five centuries, but he believed that their success was not decisive till about the year 1777. In the year 1804, under the Code Napoleon, the system was introduced into France, and with great advantages to the poor, but, he believed, at the expense of a period nearly all the charities of the country had been maintained out of the profits arising from it. As in this colony there were no poorhouses, he thought it would well befit them to consider whether a system might not be introduced which should assist, if not altogether provide for, the local charities. Whether it would not be better to take this means of not leaving such charities entirely dependent on voluntary contributions, or on a tax exacted from the public funds. In another article in the *Household Words*, admirably done, and displaying great research into the subject, he found that the profits derived from these institutions in Paris, in 1849 and '50, amounted to \$70,000 francs. [The hon. member here quoted at some length from the article.] That very large sum was realized for profits; after paying the expenses of management, this sum would be applicable to the assistance of public charities. (The hon. and learned member here read an interesting statement from a work by Sir W. Head, relating to these institutions in France, and of the success by which they had been attended.) These facts showed him that the people were eagerly taken of the benefits which were offered by these institutions. The rate of interest charged at these Monts de Pitié was about 10 per cent., and yet it was shown that, notwithstanding this low rate, and the expense of management and supervision, a high profit remained. Another fact, which was of very considerable importance, in reference to the pledges taken at these institutions in Paris, was that it was in the interest of the pawnbrokers to have these taken from, that not more than five per cent. of the pledges had been forfeited. In England the proportion of forfeited pledges was much greater, and consequently the poorer classes who had to resort to these institutions, had to suffer accordingly. He believed that institutions of this description might be carried out most advantageously in this colony, and he had suggested in his motion that the funds in the Savings' Bank might be loaned profitably and usefully employed in establishing such institutions. They were not a purely continental one, the principles were not applicable everywhere. In the year 1820, a hospital was established in Limerick, by a Mr. Barrington. The hospital was not supported as it was desirable it should be, and Mr. Barrington determined on establishing one of these Monts de Pitié on the French system, with the view of applying the profits to the support of the institution. He was assisted in his undertaking by a Mr. Haines, a well-known business man of the city, and the entire success of these institutions, and the benefits of which they had been productive. Through this system had never yet been tried in England, the author of the motion had last quoted anticipated that its introduction into that country would result in the same success which had followed on its establishment in Limerick. But whatever difficulty there might be in establishing the system in England (and there would always be difficulty in establishing any new system in England), which stated that it had not largely grown up, those difficulties would not exist in this colony; the system held out to this colony were more than those were very few. Here comparatively, there were very few pawnbrokers, but still enough, he feared, to victimize those who were compelled to have recourse to them to a very large extent. The principal objection which he expected to hear urged against this motion was that it would interfere with free trade in money. Now he did not see how this objection could apply. The laws of England, where the principle of the pawnbrokers were carried out to the largest extent, provided against extortion from the poor in other matters, why should they not step in to do the same here? There were railway acts fixing the rates of profit; enacting that on every railway certain trains should be provided to carry the poor at certain fixed rates. There were also laws placing restrictions on the modes in which persons of the poorer class should be employed in working mines, and of the number of hours they should be allowed to work in factories. These were all restrictive principles in a general way, and he believed that they as well as the system of pawnbroking, might not as well be applied to the system of pawnbroking. It was, in deed, with regard to this trade it was necessary for the Legislature to interfere by any enactment at all, it ought to interfere to protect the man who pledged equally with the broker. The sum now exacted for interest was most usurious, and the greater the distress of the parties, pledging, the more enormous the rate demanded usually was. It was true it might be said that they had no poor in this colony, or no one whom they ought to be poor. This was, however, no argument. There were many classes, not of the lowest grade, who by accident or misadventure could not help periods of temporary embarrassment. It was, at least, sufficient for his purpose, that the papers of the day in their lengthy advertisements of pledges for sale, showed that there was a large amount of business doing in Sydney of this description. In addition to the benefit which would be conferred on those who had to resort to this mode of raising money, he requested the House to find some legislation which would prevent the necessity of the establishment of pawnshops in the colony; the pawnshops would, he believed, be taken in by the Government, and the Government would support all necessary public charities. It was true that some goods on which pledges were taken were of a perishable nature, and in this colony where the destructive insect called the silver fish existed largely on woollen goods, the risk to the broker would be greater. But this might be regulated. In the institutions in France, the risk on woollen goods was two-thirds of the value—the current price, watches, one, four-fifths of their value, the rate of ten per cent. only. In the French institutions, moreover, there was another advantage to the poor man over the English ones. There, the interest was calculated to the fractional part of a month. In England, if a second month were broken into only for a few days, interest was charged for the whole month. The benefit to be derived from introducing the system he had been describing would be, that they might have a place where the poor man could not wish to sell, but on which a large sum of money could be obtained by a temporary interest. The full period of twelve months ought to be allowed him to redeem; and in France he believed security was given against fire. [The hon. member again quoted from the work of Mr. and Mrs. Hall's a passage from the *Household Words*, which had been introduced into the law respecting the pawnbrokers had been passed, or that it was not sufficiently stringent. Nevertheless, if the pawnbrokers were thus to be interfered with by legislation, the result would be that every class in the colony would become, in due course, subject to legal enactment, and would have to submit to a certain scale or rate, as to how much they were entitled to charge for their services. The charge brought against the pawnbrokers, by the Attorney-General, was that the law respecting the pawnbrokers had been passed into effect, it might be said, by the Government, might not think it desirable that the Savings' Bank should be used for this purpose. He had no wish to pledge the House to this course. He had heard it suggested that it would be desirable to refer the resolutions to the consideration of a Select Committee. He could have no possible objection to such a course, and if such committees were ap-

pointed he should be happy to give all deliberations every assistance in his power. But he hoped such Committees would weigh well the proposition to employ the name of the Savings' Bank in this way. At present there was no other profitable mode for the investment of that capital. He believed the investment he proposed would be alike safe and profitable; and as the profits of these institutions were to be applied to the support of charities for the poor, he could not conceive a more appropriate fund for it to go to. But whether the requisite funds were supplied by the Savings' Bank or by the venturer was comparatively a matter of indifference. He trusted the observations he had made would be sufficient to prove to the House that he had not taken this matter up hastily, without the deepest consideration. He had brought the subject forward with a view of redressing what he considered to be evils arising out of the present system, and since his attention was first called to the subject he had had ample means of ascertaining that these evils existed to a far greater extent than had been generally imagined. His great object was to get the present Act altered or repealed, and to establish in its stead a system which should give relief to the poorer classes, and to resort to the pledging of their chattels, for whether their creditors were rich or poor, those who had resort to it must be poor. Whether an alteration should be carried into effect in the manner he proposed, the house would determine; but he had done his duty in bringing the subject under their consideration. With these observations he begged to move the resolution.

Mr. DARVELL seconded the motion. He considered the proposition before the House worthy of attention, and it was directed to the protection of a poor class of persons, who were entitled to the attention of the Legislature. He had witnessed the working of the system of the Monts de Pitié on the continent of Europe, and believed it to be a system which might be introduced advantageously to the poorer sort of people in the colony. He hoped that the arguments which had been adduced in favour of this motion would not be met with the cold-blooded calculations of those who advocated the free-trade doctrine—that all persons should be allowed to succumb to the consequences of their own improvidence. Those who were inclined to support such an argument had, but to go a few steps further to sweep away all charitable institutions for the aged, the distressed, the infirm, and the unfortunate, (hear, hear, and applause), and claim for themselves and for those whose career in life had been less unfortunate, the right to appropriate such charitable institutions. They were seeking at intervals to gain a temporary loan, and by their necessity were driven to pawnbrokers licensed by the government, if the spirit of free-trade was carried out in its intent, the pawnbrokers would not be licensed pawnbrokers, but a person could seek a loan upon an article whenever he liked; but it was impossible when licences were granted to pawnbrokers, that no restrictions should be placed upon them demanding an enormous rate of interest. The pawnbroking system had been done away with in principle. In its origin it was a corruption of some Lombard merchants, who came over to England for the purpose of lending money to persons seeking refuge from religious persecution, and the name of the institution of fellow-men. He did not wish to attack the pawnbrokers personally, but he hoped a plan would be adopted which would enable distressed persons to obtain loans on reasonable terms. They ought to be actuated by a principle of relieving the necessities of poor persons, and if persons were licensed as pawnbrokers, they ought to be restricted to charge a fair rate of interest. But they ought not to license a sum of men to take not only the pound of flesh, but the blood also. It was not right to stand up in advocacy of this principle of pawnbroking—a system so generally condemned: no single example could be cited in support of pawnbroking. It was a principle most cruel and exacting, and contrary to the finer feelings and sentiments of the human heart.

Mr. HAINES, the hon. and learned member here read interesting extracts from the book of Mr. and Mrs. Hall, on the condition of Ireland, indicative of the entire success of these institutions, and the benefits of which they had been productive. Through this system had never yet been tried in England, the author of the motion had last quoted anticipated that its introduction into that country would result in the same success which had followed on its establishment in Limerick. He was assisted in his undertaking by a Mr. Haines, a well-known business man of the city, and the entire success of these institutions, and the benefits of which they had been productive. Through this system had never yet been tried in England, the author of the motion had last quoted anticipated that its introduction into that country would result in the same success which had followed on its establishment in Limerick. But whatever difficulty there might be in establishing the system in England (and there would always be difficulty in establishing any new system in England), which stated that it had not largely grown up, those difficulties would not exist in this colony; the pawnshops would, he believed, be taken in by the Government, and the Government would support all necessary public charities.

Mr. MARSH: With regard to the observation of the hon. and learned member for Cumberland, that the pawnbrokers were liable to be taken in by the Government, it would always be difficult in establishing any new system in England, which stated that it had not yet been tried in England, the author of the motion had last quoted anticipated that its introduction into that country would result in the same success which had followed on its establishment in Limerick. But whatever difficulty there might be in establishing the system in England (and there would always be difficulty in establishing any new system in England), which stated that it had not yet been tried in England, the author of the motion had last quoted anticipated that its introduction into that country would result in the same success which had followed on its establishment in Limerick. 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